CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

determining a plurality of discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficients based on a discrete cosine transform of a plurality of blocks of data;

providing a first DCT-encoded signal which uses at most t coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients; and

providing a second DCT-encoded signal which uses at most u coefficient bits, wherein u is less than t, to represent each of the DCT coefficients by removing at least one lesser-significant bit from each of the DCT coefficients having t coefficient bits.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a third DCT-encoded signal which uses at most v coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients by removing at least two lesser-significant bits from each of the DCT coefficients having t coefficient bits;

wherein v is less than u.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal uses t coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients, and wherein the second DCT-encoded signal uses u coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal is provided to a first data communication link having a first bandwidth, wherein the second DCT-encoded signal is provided to a second data communication

link having a second bandwidth, and wherein the first bandwidth is greater than the second bandwidth.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal has a first data rate, wherein the second DCT-encoded signal has a second data rate, and wherein the first data rate is greater than the second data rate.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal and the second DCT-encoded signal are substantially synchronized.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein t is equal to 13 or 14.

8. A computer-usable medium having computer program code to direct a computer system to perform acts of:

determining a plurality of discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficients based on a discrete cosine transform of a plurality of blocks of data;

providing a first DCT-encoded signal which uses at most t coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients; and

providing a second DCT-encoded signal which uses at most u coefficient bits, wherein u is less than t, to represent each of the DCT coefficients by removing at least one lesser-significant bit from each of the DCT coefficients having t coefficient bits.

9. The computer-usable medium of claim 8 wherein the computer program code further is to direct the computer system to perform an act of:

providing a third DCT-encoded signal which uses at most v coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients;

wherein v is less than u.

10. The computer-usable medium of claim 8 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal uses t coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients, and wherein the second DCT-encoded signal uses u coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients.

11. The computer-usable medium of claim 8 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal is provided to a first data communication link having a first bandwidth, wherein the second DCT-encoded signal is provided to a second data communication link having a second bandwidth, and wherein the first bandwidth is greater than the second bandwidth.

12. The computer-usable medium of claim 8 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal has a first data rate, wherein the second DCT-encoded signal has a second data rate, and wherein the first data rate is greater than the second data rate.

13. The computer-usable medium of claim 8 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal and the second DCT-encoded signal are substantially synchronized.

14. The computer-usable medium of claim 8 wherein t is equal to 13 or 14.

15. A system comprising:

a compression engine to determine a plurality of discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficients based on a discrete cosine transform of a plurality of blocks of data, to provide a first DCT-encoded signal which uses at most t coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients, and to provide a second DCT-encoded signal which uses at most u coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients, wherein u is less than t.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the compression engine further is to provide a third DCT-encoded signal which uses at most v coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients, wherein v is less than u.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal uses t coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients, and wherein the second DCT-encoded signal uses u coefficient bits to represent each of the DCT coefficients.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal is provided to a first data communication link having a first bandwidth, wherein the second DCT-encoded signal is provided to a second data communication link having a second bandwidth, and wherein the first bandwidth is greater than the second bandwidth.

19. The system of claim 15 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal has a first data rate, wherein the second DCT-encoded signal has a second data rate, and wherein the first data rate is greater than the second data rate.

20. The system of claim 15 wherein the first DCT-encoded signal and the second DCT-encoded signal are substantially synchronized.

21. The system of claim 15 wherein t is equal to 13 or 14.

22. The system of claim 15 wherein the compression engine is to remove at least one lesser-significant bit from each of the DCT coefficients having t coefficient bits.